

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7537

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO: INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON
COMMUNICATION POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN; QUITO, JUNE 14-23, 1976

1. INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARIAT INDICATE THAT LATTER MAKING MAJOR EFFORT, COMMENSURATE WITH IMPORTANCE OF SUCH A CONFERENCE, FOR TIGHTLY ORGANIZED AND RESPONSIVELY FOCUSED CONFERENCE NEXT JUNE, BUT THAT PARTICIPATING MEMBER STATES IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WILL RAISE LONG-STANDING ISSUE OF WHAT THEY PERCEIVE THE LA/ CARIBBEAN REGIONS LACK OF SUFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS-NEWS NETWORKS, THEIR DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE NEWS AGENCIES AND BROADCASTING MATERIAL SOURCES, AND HOW BEST TO RESOLVE THESE SHARPLY FELT DISADVANTAGES, I.E. THE PROPER RULE OF RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

2. ASDRUBAL SALSAMENDI (URUGUAYAN), PROJECT OFFICER WORKING IN SPECIALLY ESTABLISHED PREPARATORY COORDINATION UNIT CREATED FOR SUBJECT CONFERENCE, NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SECRETARIAT IS UNDERTAKING SPECIAL EFFORTS TO INSURE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE THAT FULL SUBSTANTIVE SCOPE OF CONFERENCE IS FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY KEY ASSOCIATIONS. THESE EFFORTS

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REFLECT WHAT SECRETARIAT FEELS HAS BEEN FUNDAMENTAL

MISUNDERSTANDING OF UNESCO AS SOMEHOW "FAVORING" STATE CONTROL OVER NEWS-INFORMATION MEDIA. ACCORDINGLY, MR. LOPEZ ALVAREZ, THE DEPUTY COORDINATOR OF CONFERENCE PREPARATORY UNIT, WILL GO TO MONTEVIDEO FEBRUARY 7-9 TO DISCUSS THE CONFERENCE WITH DR. SOLE, DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN RADIO ASSOCIATION. ALVAREZ WILL ALSO BE DISPATCHED TO THE APRIL 5-8 MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS MEETING IN JAMAICA.

3. PERMDEL AIRPOUCHING CONFERENCE'S PROVISIONAL AGENDA, UNESCO DOCUMENT COM/LACCOM/1. IN ESSENCE, FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF LA/CARIBBEAN COMMUNICATION POLICIES WILL BE DISCUSSED: A) PRESENT SITUATION AND TRENDS; B) ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS IN AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT; C) ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING THE "RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE;" D) RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMUNICATORS; E) DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO COMMUNICATION POLICIES FORMULATION, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEMS AND METHODS OF PLANNING, RELATED ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL ASPECTS, AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION; F) COMMUNICATIONS ROLE IN LA/CARIBBEAN REGION INTEGRATION AND ROLES OF UNESCO AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING THIS END.

4. CONFERENCE IS TO ADOPT "RECOMMENDATIONS" BASED ON DISCUSSIONS OF ABOVE TOPICS. CONFERENCE WORKING DOCUMENT WILL INCLUDE CASE STUDIES ON COMMUNICATION POLICIES IN VENEZUELA, BRAZIL, COSTA RICA, PERU AND

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AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /070 W

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COLOMBIA. ADDITIONALLY, CONFERENCE WILL DRAW ON STUDIES NOS. 70, 74, 75 AND 76 IN UNESCO SERIES "REPORTS AND PAPERS ON MASS COMMUNICATION." PERMDEL AIRPOUCHING COMPLETE SET OF LATTER TO DEPARTMENT. ADDITIONAL WORKING DOCUMENTS, WHICH NOT YET AVAILABLE TO PERMDEL, WILL BE UNESCO'S STUDIES ON: "HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL REGIONS OF COMMUNICATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA," "STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA," AND A LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN THE DOMAIN OF COMMUNICATIONS.

5. COMMENT: AS ENVISAGED SUBJECT MATTER SUGGESTIONS, PREPARATIONS FOR THIS CONFERENCE APPEAR TO BE PROCEEDING IN THOUGHTFUL AND WORKMANLIKE MANNER; MOST NOTABLY INCLUDING THE SPECIAL CONTACTING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN RADIO ASSOCIATION AND THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER, AS IN ALL SUCH CONFERENCES, THE RESPONSIBILITY, OR LACK OF SAME, DISPLAYED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE WILL DETERMINE THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF CONFERENCE WORK. ACCORDINGLY, SHOULD DEPARTMENT RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM MEDIA ASSOCIATIONS IN THE U.S. CONCERNING THIS CONFERENCE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO STRESS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT AND MEMBER STATES WHO ARE THE PRIME

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MOVERS IN RAISING ISSUES AT CONFERENCES. FURTHER, THE RESPECTIVE LA/CARIBBEAN NATIONAL AFFILIATES OF INTERESTED MEDIA PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS MIGHT BE THE BEST CHANNELS FOR EFFECTIVE EXPRESSION OF CONCERN. PERMDEL WOULD EMPHASIZE AT THIS POINT THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO INDICATION AS YET OF WHETHER OR IN WHAT FORM THE LONG-STANDING ISSUE OF STATE-PRIVATE CONTROL OF MEDIA WILL ARISE AT THIS CONFERENCE, BUT IT CAN BE ASSUMED WITH CONSIDERABLE CERTAINTY THAT THIS WILL FIGURE AS ONE OF THE MAIN THEMES OF CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS. PERMDEL WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED AS FURTHER INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, POLICIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS03534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760043-1152
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760279/aaaacrga.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO: INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE
TAGS: PORG, OCON, XM, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006